



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

*Ad/P
Version*

Senator J. M. Fulbright
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Fulbright:

This responds to your request for the comments of my Agency on S. 822. I believe the objective sought is a laudable one. As I stated in my address to the Veterans of Foreign Wars in August 1960, we need in this country more education on the history and policies of the Communist movement, particularly knowledge of the nature of the Communist threat to our civilization. I believe it is essential for our educational institutions throughout the country to emphasize training in all of the ramifications of Communist intrigue and its historical background.

Although the measures suggested in S. 822 have many good features, I feel it would not be advisable to centralize the study of communism in any one institution. My chief objection to the Freedom Commission idea is that there are already agencies and committees of government which are devoting a vast amount of time and effort to the subject, and a new group, whether taken outside of government or from within government, or mixed would largely duplicate what is already being done.

In regard to the Freedom Academy, there are these objections:

- (1) Many universities and other institutions (such as the Council on Foreign Relations, Foreign Policy Association,

Brookings, etc.) are already devoting some attention to the study of the Communist menace and the education of their student body or membership. In these universities and institutions we find most of the real experts, outside of those in government, who are competent to deal with this matter. A new Freedom Academy would need to draw on this talent thus weakening the work of these institutions.

- (2) A study of international communism and related Soviet problems is not in itself a rounded academic course. The proposed Academy would reach only a very limited circle of students, could hardly give degrees, or be anything more than a supplement to existing educational institutions. Moreover, a course having counteraction as one of its main goals will inevitably stray from objective scholarship into the contentious field of opinion and emotions.
- (3) The Academy would be an overt institution, and its personnel and student body would be well known. Consequently, their utility as anti-Communist workers would be largely destroyed, particularly as far as overseas areas are concerned.

In view of these factors, it seems preferable to increase the emphasis on the study of communism in as many educational institutions as possible in order to give a wider appreciation of Communist intrigue and its historical background.

As an alternative plan to the creation of the proposed Freedom Commission of six members and a chairman, conceivably, a study might be made of the utility of organizing, on a governmental basis, something in this general field roughly comparable to the National Science Foundation. Although this in itself would not be an educational institution, it might serve as a clearing house for the further development in the universities and other learned institutions of wider knowledge on the general subject of communism. It might also be a channel through which modest funding could be arranged in support of approved projects in such institutions. This would involve only a director, with one or two assistants, who would maintain contact with the work done in this field in the

United States, try to see that new courses are started in other institutions which do not now have them, and generally serve to promote the education of American students on a broad basis. In this way many thousands of students would be reached whereas a separate academy in Washington could at best only deal with a relatively small number.

I appreciate the opportunity you have given me to comment on the Freedom Commission Act and hope that the above remarks will be helpful. I would like to repeat that I am thoroughly in favor of the objective which you are seeking and am anxious to cooperate in every way.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director